

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR USING VALUES FROM A FREQUENT
VALUES LIST TO BRIDGE ADDITIONAL KEYS IN A DATABASE INDEX**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A database query optimizer determines when no optimal index for a query exists, determines whether a sub-optimal index exists, and if so, uses statistical information for each additional key in the sub-optimal index to rewrite the query in a manner that allows traversing the sub-optimal index. The sub-optimal index is then probed using the rewritten query, and the number of estimated returned rows is then used to optimize the query.